



Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Jeff Zaring, State Board Administrator

DATE: October 1, 2009

SUBJECT: Accountability

Technical Assistance Team visits for schools in the fourth consecutive year of Academic Probation will have started by the October 7 State Board of Education meeting. We are on target to have all visits completed and reports written by the December State Board meeting. Dale Chu and I will provide a progress report.

When the state accountability system was created, the State Board of Education identified a need to use indicators beyond ISTEP to assess performance and improvement of high schools. The data elements selected for inclusion, when data became available, were graduation rate, Advanced Placement test results, Core 40 End of Course Assessment (ECA) results, and graduates who earn Core 40 and Academic Honors Diplomas.

Not all the data were immediately available and much has changed – the graduation rate calculation, Core 40 as the graduation expectation, elimination of the Grade 9 test, shifting PSAT to Grade 10, and replacing the Graduation Qualifying Examination with Algebra I and English 10 ECAs.

We now have stability in the system and can include new data elements. With changes to the assessment system, we must change the assessment elements of the system. The Department proposes to engage stakeholders and develop a draft plan. As a first step, we would like to hear from the Board.

The following elements have been identified as possible elements for a high school accountability system:

- Graduation Examination results (Algebra I and English 10 ECA)
- Higher Level Diplomas (Academic Honors, Technical Honors, International Baccalaureate)
- Advanced Placement (participation and results)
- International Baccalaureate Examinations
- Industry Certifications
- Accredited College Credits

- Graduation Rate
- Progress Rate (credits earned per year)
- PSAT (including AP potential)
- SAT and ACT
- College Placement Tests

Are there other elements that should be in the mix?

Florida recently implemented new high school accountability requirements. (See attached press release.) Florida continues to evaluate a school not only by the performance of all students but also the performance of “at-risk” students.

Florida Department of Education

Press Release

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

DOE Press Office

(850) 245-0413

State Board of Education Approves New High School Grading Formula

~ Approval establishes Florida's school accountability program as one of the most comprehensive in the country ~

Miami - The State Board of Education (SBE) today approved enhancements to Florida's high school grading formula during a meeting in Miami. The changes, required by the passage of Senate Bill 1908 during the 2008 Legislative session, split the focus of the high school grading formula to now account for both Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) performance and new measures such as participation and performance on advanced coursework, graduation rates and the college and career readiness of students.

"In addition to providing a better representation of the accomplishments of our high schools, this new grading formula will help increase the educational opportunities available to students throughout Florida," said Education Commissioner Dr. Eric J. Smith. "The Board's approval of these changes represents a significant step forward for our state as we work to prepare our young people to compete in today's highly competitive global marketplace."

Beginning this school year (2009-10), 50 percent of a high school's grade will be based on the performance of their students on the FCAT, and the remaining 50 percent will be based on factors that include the following:

- The school's graduation rate;
- The performance and participation of students in Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Dual Enrollment, Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), and industry certification;
- The postsecondary readiness of the students as measured by the SAT, ACT, or College Placement Test (CPT);
- The high school graduation rate of at-risk students; and
- Growth or decline in these data components from year to year.

In previous years, grades for high schools have been released annually during the summer, alongside elementary and middle school grades. With the insertion of new data components for the revised grading formula, it is anticipated that high school grades will be released toward the end of the year when all components are available for the calculation to occur.

For more information about the changes to high school grades, visit

http://www.fldoe.org/board/meetings/2009_09_15/109981presentation.pdf.